

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 SP-02 CU-02 /043 W

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R 291157Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4497

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2850

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF

SUBJECT: UNRWA FUNDING

REF: BEIRUT 5456

1. IN REPLY TO OUR QUERY, JORDAN UNRWA DIRECTOR JOHN TANNER INFORMED US APRIL 29 THAT UNRWA HICOM RENNIE HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE UNRWA PROGRAM AT FULL RATIONS IN MAY AND NOT RPT NOT GO THROUGH WITH MAY 1 CUTBACK PREVIOUSLY CONTEMPLATED BY UNRWA. TANNER SAID THE FINANCIAL SITUATION IS STILL VERY PRECARIOUS HOWEVER AND SEVERE CUTBACKS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE REQUIRED SUBSEQUENTLY IF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE NOT FORTHCOMING.

2. GOJ FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY HASSAN IBRAHIM INFORMED US UPON HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE MEETING THAT JORDAN WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING FORMAL ARAB LEAGUE AGREEMENT TO INCREASE ARAB COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA. HE SAID
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THERE WAS FEAR AMONG ARAB STATES THAT SUCH AN

ACTION WOULD CREATE UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT IMPLY-
ING FORMAL ARAB RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNRWA. ABOVE
INFO CONFIRMS INFO FROM MCELHINEY IN BEIRUT 5426.

3. IBRAHIM SAID HOWEVER ARAB LEAGUE ENDORSED EFFORTS
BY UNRWA HOSTS COUNTRIES (I.E. JORDAN, SYRIA,
LEBANON AND EVEN PLO) TO SEEK INCREASED FUNDING
THROUGH BILATERAL CONTACTS. IBRAHIM SAID THAT, IN
BILATERAL CONTEXT, SITUATION APPEARS SOMEWHAT
PROMISING INASMUCH AS OIL PRODUCING STATES IN GULF
APPEAR TO HAVE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD INCREASING
CONTRIBUTIONS. ONLY SPECIFIC IBRAHIM MENTIONED WAS
THAT KUWAITIS AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING APPEARED POSI-
TIVE. SAUDIS, HE SAID, WERE SILENT ON SUBJECT AT
ARAB LEAGUE MEETING BUT HE WAS HOPEFUL THEY COULD
BE FORTHCOMING IN BILATERAL CONTEXT.

4. IBRAHIM WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING CHANNEL-
ING OF POSSIBLE INCREASED ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO
UNESCO FOR UNRWA USE. HE MENTIONED UNESCO
FUNDING MIGHT EVENTUALLY HELP SOMEWHAT TO DEFRAID
SOME UNRWA TEACHERS COSTS. HE INDICATED THERE WAS NO
SIGNIFICANT AIRING OF THIS AT ARAB LEAGUE MEETING
AND HE THOUGHT IN ANY CASE USE OF UNESCO PLOY
WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN NEAR FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN02850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0122
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975045/aaaaaeho.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 5456
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNRWA FUNDING
TAGS: SREF, XF, UNRWA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006